

Application No. 10/816,488
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 24 has been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the foam layer is a foamed polyurethane resin layer, as formerly recited in (now canceled) claim 30, and to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the reinforcing plate is iron, as formerly recited in claim 25.

In addition, claims 25, 29, 31 and 32 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 24.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 25, 29, 31 and 32 be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 24, 29, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,618,944 ("Persson et al"); claims 25 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Persson et al; and claim 33 was rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of Persson et al and USP 5,120,593

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("Kurihara"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 24, a roof member for a cab of a work machine is provided which comprises a foamed polyurethane resin layer, a reinforcing iron plate on an interior-side face of the foamed polyurethane resin layer, and a sound absorbing layer formed on an interior-side face of the reinforcing iron plate.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 24, the reinforcing iron plate is provided on an interior face of a foamed polyurethane resin layer.

It is respectfully pointed out that polyurethane has good wettability with respect to metal and adheres well to metal. Therefore, when the foam layer is made up of a foamed polyurethane resin, separation at the boundary between the reinforcing iron plate and the foam is unlikely to occur. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that polyurethane is inexpensive and is a reactive curing material. Therefore, polyurethane can be integrally molded with the reinforcing iron plate and does not need to be plasticized and molded in a separate process.

By contrast, Persson et al merely discloses using polyimide, polymetachrylimide, or polyvinylchloride as the material for the

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foam core thereof. In this connection, it is respectfully pointed out that although polyvinylchloride is not expensive, it is a thermoplastic material and does not have a good adhesiveness, which necessitates separately molding the polyvinylchloride layer. Polyimide, on the other hand, is an expensive engineering plastic, and is therefore not desirable as a material for a large, thick foam layer.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Persson et al does not disclose, teach or suggest a foamed resin layer made from polyurethane, and that the structure disclosed in Persson et al cannot achieve the advantageous effects achieved by the structure of the claimed present invention which uses a foamed polyurethane resin layer.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that Kurihara also does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described structure of the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 24, and claims 25, 27-29 and 31-33 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Persson et al and Kurihara, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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